

Hello, my name is Ginger Burke. I am sorry that I could not be there today but I am glad I have to opportunity to give you my testimony.

I have a disability and I am served by DMR. I think it is really important that the name be changed. Most people don't understand how we feel about the "R" word. Kids at school call each other that word as a put down and the agency that supports us uses that same word! Kids in school need to be educated not to use that word and it would help if DMR would stop using it.

People look at us like we are different. We get stared at, made fun of and called names. The word "retarded" makes people think of a person who can't do anything. People with disabilities are just the same as everyone else! We have jobs, homes, apartments, friends – all we want is respect from society. Changing the name would help to get us some respect.

If we can make the public understand how we feel maybe they will stop using that word. Please, change the name of DMR.

Thank you,
Ginger Burke
Middlefield, CT